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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

**INFORMATION REPORT**

CD NO.

COUNTRY: Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 21 March 1949

SUBJECT: Fortification of Island of Bisevo

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. The Island of Bisevo is being transformed into a fortress by Yugoslav Navy technicians and workers brought from the mainland under constant Navy surveillance.
2. Wherever possible, the technicians in charge of the project are using the existing fortifications constructed under the Austro-Hungarian empire. Long range guns are placed in positions dug in solid rock. A submarine pen has been constructed in rock identical with the pen previously built on the neighboring Island of Vis.
3. Within recent months new mine fields were laid around Bisevo. All merchant ships are guided to the island by special Navy pilots. In addition, four MAS boats constantly patrol the waters surrounding Bisevo. The boats control the documents of the vessels and check the channels for drifting mines. A patrol boat recently struck a mine in Korcul channel with loss of the entire crew. Strict secrecy surrounding the incident was maintained to prevent publicity.
4. Special permission is required for any Yugoslav merchant marine vessel from the naval command, at Split, to land at Bisevo. Prior to sailing for the island, Navy Security guards, are assigned to each ship.
5. The Yugoslav Navy Surveillance unit comprises three officers, nine petty officers and two sailors situated in Blato on the Island of Korcul. The officers speak English, Italian and German. This unit is equipped with large powerful speed boats, formerly the property of the Italian Air Corps.

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